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Approved For Release 2006/02/06 : CIA-RDP83-00415R000300010001-5

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
Washington, D.C.

16 April 1947

COUNTRY: French Indo China -  
SUBJECT: Current Negotiations  
DATE OF INFO:

1. The Free Lao Princes want independence within the French Union. They want protection against Siam more than against the Annamites. In no case do they want to be dependent upon Siam. In general, they are very much against Tieng Sirikhan and feel that Tao Oon is completely in his hands. Prince Souphanavong is calling the men in Laos to arms and is spreading propaganda everywhere against Tieng. He says that it is with arms alone that the French will be made to "give up" (which is somewhat foolish considering the comparative military strength of France and Laos).
2. Tao Oon is falling out more and more with the Princes. They make their own decisions and plans and do not consult or inform him. Many misunderstandings have arisen and there have been petty conflicts such as the insistence of the wives of Souvanna Phouma and Souphanavong that Oon treat them as "Princesses", even at friendly, informal gatherings. Oon is certain that the Annamites are the greatest danger because he feels that Laos is their sole retreat and he wants to speak with the French if it will result in complete independence. He would like a confederation with Siam.
3. The Princes' opinion is that HO Chi Minh is a Communist and that the Annamite people don't follow him and would be happy to be rid of him. Oon thinks that there is really a large group who have had enough and would be capable of forming another government. The opinion that the Viets are Communists didn't stop Petsarath from sending and having published in the press a telegram of sympathy to HO Chi Minh.

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